

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)

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RECEIVED

Serial No.

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For

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CONTROLLING WHE

**BRAKES OF A MOTOR VEHICLE** 

Examiner

Benjamin Pezzlo

**Art Unit** 

3683

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Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: April 18, 2003

Signature:

## <u>AMENDMENT</u>

SIR:

In response to the Office Action of January 21, 2003, kindly amend the above-captioned application as follows:

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 5 to 10, 12 and 13.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3 and 11 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for controlling a wheel brake of a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining a road slope;

determining whether a brake pedal is depressed and whether a parking brake is engaged;

maintaining a braking force at a wheel independently of an extent of a brake pedal actuation, in at least one operating state with one of the brake pedal depressed and the parking brake engaged, if the road slope points in a direction of a future travel direction of the vehicle; and

reducing the braking force for at least one condition.